

SAFETY AND HEALTH

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM MANAGERS

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DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM

Many of the Department's facilities had safety deficiencies that were addressed to ensure the Department's ability to provide for the health and welfare of both our workers and the public. The Department had identified non-conformances with nuclear safety requirements, and weaknesses in meeting technical safety requirements. Vulnerabilities were also identified at some of the Department's facilities used to store spent nuclear fuel and other nuclear materials in implementing the Nuclear Safety Rule. In addition, occurrences throughout the Department's sites indicated a need for increased management attention to continue improving integrated safety management with particular emphasis on feedback and improvement mechanisms and compliance with environment, safety and health requirements.

Ensuring the safety and health of the public and the Department's workers is one of the top priorities in accomplishing our challenging scientific and national security missions. Due to the inherently critical nature of these issues, there is the need for continuous vigilance and improvement. Currently, the Department is addressing explosive safety issues and, with the ongoing re-engineering of the National Nuclear Security Administration workforce, needs to ensure that adequate focus on general safety at our laboratories and plants is maintained.

PRIOR YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The safety and health of the Department's workers and the public is one of our top priorities. Through 2002, the Department had completed a variety of actions to improve safety and

**DOE Management Control Program
Final December 2003**

health processes and address known deficiencies at individual locations. Key accomplishments include: Initiated implementation of Integrated Safety Management (ISM) which is a key component of the Department's long term safety and health strategy; completed the Nuclear Safety Standards Upgrade Project to assure nuclear activities are accomplished safely; established a beryllium registry to monitor worker exposure to beryllium and provided medical screenings to formerly exposed workers; completed substantive actions correcting vulnerabilities related to the storage of spent nuclear fuel; strengthened the Department's epidemiology program; and completed an investigation and established corrective actions to address worker and public safety concerns at the Paducah site. Also, in FY 2002, responsibility for independent oversight of environment, safety and health (ES&H) programs was transferred to the Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance (OA) to assess the effectiveness of those environment, safety, and health systems and practices used by field organizations for implementing Integrated Safety Management and to provide clear, concise, and independent evaluations of performance in protecting our workers, the public and the environment from the hazards associated with DOE activities and sites.

Projected Completion Date

**PLANNED CRITICAL
MILESTONES**

	Previously Reported Date	Current Completion Date	Responsible Office	Responsible Individual
Validate effective implementation of the Documented Safety Analyses and Technical Safety Requirements for all applicable sites/facilities.	N/A	9/04	NNSA EM SC NE	Dr. Everett Beckner Jesse Roberson Raymond Orbach William Magwood
Complete movement of critical Federal personnel throughout the complex to align resources in a manner that best supports accomplishment of NNSA safety oversight responsibilities.	N/A	10/04	NNSA	Dr. Everett Beckner
Validate the stability of the Federal safety oversight function across the NNSA complex.	N/A	9/05	NNSA	Dr. Everett Beckner

PROGRESS STATUS

The Department has made great strides in establishing and implementing processes to address our safety and health Significant Issue. Most notably, implementation of ISM systems at all Departmental sites, submission of required Documented Safety Analyses; and completion of the Nuclear Safety Standards Upgrade Project have provided a solid

**DOE Management Control Program
Final December 2003**

foundation for resolving our long-term safety and health issues. As a result of ISM being revoked at the Oak Ridge Operations Office and one of its contractors, Bechtel Jacobs Company (BJC), independent assessments and reviews were required prior to their ISM implementation being re-verified. The BJC ISM implementation was conducted in late March/early April 2003. BJC and ORO have both received their re-verifications; BJC in June 2003 and ORO in October 2003.

In FY 2003, OA conducted independent inspections of ES&H program management and implementation at six sites, conducted a special study on the Department's management of suspect/counterfeit items, and published reports detailing lessons learned from ES&H evaluations and from performance analysis of environmental monitoring, surveillance, and control programs within the Department. The inspections included an independent safety assessment at the Oak Ridge Operations Office. Continued safety inspections are planned for FY 2004 to help evaluate the effectiveness of Federal safety oversight and the Department's implementation of the Documented Safety Analyses and Technical Safety Requirements.

In addition, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has put into place processes and procedures to ensure nuclear explosive safety studies are completed prior to performance of any life extension work on weapons systems. However, with the movement of critical individuals throughout the complex, Federal oversight of all safety and health related areas will require enhanced management attention until personnel movements stabilize. Similarly, the Office of Science (SC) will continue to ensure the safety and health of its workforce through appropriate training, tracking, and clarification of roles, responsibilities, authorities, and accountabilities as SC restructures its organization.

PROPOSED CLOSURE DATE

While we have put in place the building blocks to ensure a strong safety and health program, evaluating our effectiveness in implementing these strategies is an on-going process. In the coming years, the Department plans to continue validating the implementation and effectiveness of safety and health activities in key areas including Integrated Safety Management, Documented Safety Analyses, Technical Safety Requirements and explosives safety programs at selected sites. NNSA and SC will also increase management attention to key safety areas to mitigate the impacts of critical personnel movements and other restructuring initiatives. Potential for closure will be evaluated in 2005 with the completion of all major milestones.